

**Lead Entity Advisory Group**  
**April 11, 2003**  
**Seatac, WA**  
**Summary Notes**

**LEAG**

**Attendance:**

Members:

Jay Watson, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Chair  
Steve Martin, Asotin Conservation District  
Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council, Vice Chair  
John Sims, Quinault Nation LE  
Doug Osterman, King County WRIA 9  
Paul Dorn, Kitsap County LE  
Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board  
Ken Kuhn, Pend Oreille CD LE

**Others**

**Present:**

Other Lead Entities & Sponsors:

Mike Maki, Quinault Nation LE  
Roy Hubert, Pierce County LE  
Gary Wade, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board  
Jane Lamensdorf-Bucher, King County WRIA 8  
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Mason/Thurston CD LE  
Stephanie Kaknes, Snohomish County LE

Staff:

Jim Fox, IAC/SRFB  
Rollie Geppert, IAC/SRFB  
Carole Richmond, IAC/SRFB  
Kristi Lynett, WDFW  
Brian Walsh, WDFW  
Tim Smith, WDFW  
Bob Everit, WDFW  
Ed Manary, Conservation Commission  
Keith Keown, WDFW

**LEAG**

**Members**

**Absent:**

Mike Ward, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (excused)

**Introductions**

Round table introductions. Ken Kuhn was introduced as a new LEAG member. Ken works for Pend Oreille County Planning and sits on the local LE Citizen Committee and 2514 Planning Unit.

**Approval of  
Agendas**

Agenda approved.

**Chair Report**

Jay testified at the January 22 SRFB meeting about LEAG's "Vision" for a SRFB Project Funding Process... (see document by same title distributed by Jay in January). A LEAG sub-committee had been working on this proposal for many months. SRFB members raised some concerns, but

were supportive of further work to more fully define the proposed process. The Sub-committee soon came to a consensus that LE Project Prioritization Strategies are the basis for any future project allocation process. SRFB Tech Panel members had indicated that most LE strategies in their current form had limited use in which to help them judge benefit and certainty. Because of 5<sup>th</sup> round time-constraints and the need for all involved to come to a better mutual understanding of the content and use of strategies, a Steering Committee was created to help design and structure a Strategy workshop. The Steering Committee is made up of LEAG Members Jay Watson and Shirley Solomon, , a Tech Panel member, SRFB member, facilitator, and IAC and WDFW staff. The workshop is designed to bridge expectations and perceptions of the content and use of strategies, and therefore, is directed toward not just LE's, but SRFB/Tech Panel members, and agency support staff. Please see "Workshop Purpose, Objectives and Outcome" for more details.

**Staff Report**

Brian Walsh  
WDFW

Brian welcomed Ken Kuhn to LEAG and announced that LEAG will have a number of openings in July due to term expirations. He also noted that WDFW has hired on a temporary Evergreen State College graduate student intern, Margen Carlson, to help with several projects including the workshop, webpage, and gathering information about habitat work schedules. Sara LaBorde, WDFW's Salmon Policy Coordinator, is leaving state government. A replacement will be named by late April.

Jim Fox  
IAC/SRFB

Jim Fox, IAC gave updates on several budget and legislative issues.

Jim cautioned LE's about complaining to Legislators about "problems" with the SRFB Project Funding Round this year. Without positive statements to balance out the frustrated comments, some Legislators might get the idea that the system is too broken to fix, and their valuable support might decrease in these tough budget times. Direct contact with members through phone calls or visits is the most effective means of communication.

IAC Staff and Bill Ruckelshaus are talking with OWEB (Oregon's version of SRFB), BPA and NW Power Conservation Council about coordinating a salmon message to Congress. Reporting and monitoring consistencies will send a strong and clear voice that funds are being well spent and coordinated, but that more is necessary to continue the important work.

**LE  
Operational  
Contract Re-  
evaluation**

All LEs present for this discussion agreed that now is not the time to re-evaluate LE Operational Grant allocation awards. While the system might not be perfect, LEAG members consider the current allocation to be fairly equitable and most LEs are functional and efficient with their current funds. It is a particularly sensitive budget and political time, and the LEAG recommended keeping the current allocation formula in effect.

**Reimburse-**

Kristi noted that because LE funds are passed through from IAC, and

**ment  
Document-  
ation Policy**

because of WDFW's new internal auditor's requirements, the next biennium contracts, starting July 2003, will be reimbursable I based. LEs will be required to turn in copies of all receipts, with WDFW staff spot checking for completeness and accuracy. A new Policy and Procedures Manual will be created and distributed to all Coordinators in early June.

**Workshop  
Update**

The workshop "Strategies to Projects; Building a Common Understanding" will be held in Seatac on May 15-16. The workshop registration will be emailed out next week, with an agenda and other materials available in early May.

**Habitat  
Work-  
schedule**

The requirement for each LE to maintain a "habitat work schedule" in the legislation and WDFW contract is very vague. One LEAG member commented that there isn't time and dollars to recast the work that has been done on habitat work schedules. At this time, WDFW intends LEs to provide by June 30, an update on your progress to date. There is no right or wrong work schedule, and certainly none that are complete. In the next few months, WDFW staff will be compiling information on the status and content of current work schedules, and with your input, will be able to provide more guidance and assistance.

**5<sup>th</sup> Round  
Issues  
Update**

Rollie provided a brief update of the 12 working groups established to provide specific recommendations for the 5<sup>th</sup> Round Process. Each group, led by an IAC staff member, was to meet no more than 3 times this winter/spring. By the third meeting each group was to have a set of options related to their workgroup topic. Those options would be distributed to all LEs, and then in turn to the SRFB. Most groups are progressing smoothly, although the Benefit and Certainty Workgroup must wait to finished up their recommendations until the other workgroups' products can be tied in.

Carole is the leader for 3 Workgroups who met jointly twice. Regions, Strategies, Tech Panel Role. While minor 5<sup>th</sup> Round recommendations were discussed, the workgroup ended the second meeting by asking IAC staff to draft a certification scenario.

**Staff Update  
Cont...**

**Nearshore**

Tim Smith joined the meeting late but added a few updates. The Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project (PSNERP) has received \$700,000 fom the Corps Feasibility Study. Scott Redman, formally with PSAT, is the new non-federal project manager. A new Lead Entity representative for the Steering Committee will be identified by May 1. Janet Kearsley will continue to work with the Nearshore Implementation Team on involving LEs in project planning and identification.

Two documents developed by the PSNERP Science Team are nearly in final draft stage and will be distributed shortly. "General Guidance for Restoration in the Nearshore", and a white paper on "Salmon Utilization

in the Nearshore Environment”.

A Pre-workshop Nearshore meeting will take place on Thursday, May 15 from 9am-12pm. These papers will be discussed as well as other updates and an opportunity for questions and answers. All are invited to attend.

The Feds (through the Corps) must obligate \$500,000 in general construction funds for nearshore work by this fall. The PSNERP group will soon develop a process to select project and allocate those funds. Lead Entities will be kept up to date on this process. Tim noted that there will likely be specific requirements for the use of these funds (i.e. already permitted and 35% local match) that may limit its usefulness for many groups during this first year.

**SRFB Grant  
Cycle  
Timeline**

IAC staff indicated that changing the 5<sup>th</sup> round start date to the fall would enable the actual project funding amount to be known, give more time to LEs to work on their strategies, and potentially set in place 2 grant cycles over the next 3 years. After some discussion, all Lead Entity participants present agreed that 1) they did not want to extend the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> Round Grant Cycle, and 2) they wanted applications due to IAC the end of November, not October as IAC staff had presented as a potential option. The LEs have established successful programs based on consistency and predictability. Program sponsors are accustomed to the current schedule and changing this late in the year would disrupt their planning.

**SRFB Project  
Allocation  
Option(s)**

IAC staff project that over the next 3 years, funding for projects could total around \$60 million. They indicated the SRFB was leaning towards allocating +/- \$20 million for projects for the 4<sup>th</sup> round. This is less than the general understanding that \$26 was available for 4<sup>th</sup> round projects. IAC staff are intending to create 2 initial Options of around \$20 million for decisions at the SRFBs May 1-2 meeting, with a potential for additional funding being allocated at the SRFB's June meeting.

Along with the funding amounts, allocation options included extending out the 5<sup>th</sup> Round for 18 months and allocating about \$30 million for each round (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>).

LEAG had strong objections to any scenarios 1) reducing the 26 million, and 2) postponing any additional allocation decisions until the SRFB's June meeting, Chairman Ruckleshaus would be contacted by Jay Watson, Jim Fox and Rollie Geppert to communicate this position. Discussing future allocation cycles would be put on hold until after the current round.

**NEXT MEETING  
Date To be Determined  
Seatac, WA**

